



Bureau of Animal Protection (BAP) Newsletter January 2012

BAP joins with CSU for equine investigations class

The Bureau of Animal Protection is excited and proud to announce that for the third time the Colorado Department of Agriculture and Colorado State University are combining resources and planning a three day event in March to train Bureau of Animal Protection agents, other law enforcement personnel and veterinarians in equine neglect investigative techniques. The training, which will be held at the B.W. Pickett Equine Center in Fort Collins Colorado, will include hands-on body condition scoring, basic identification, equipment and use, equine behavior and an investigative overview summarizing what was learned and how to apply it to a neglect investigation.

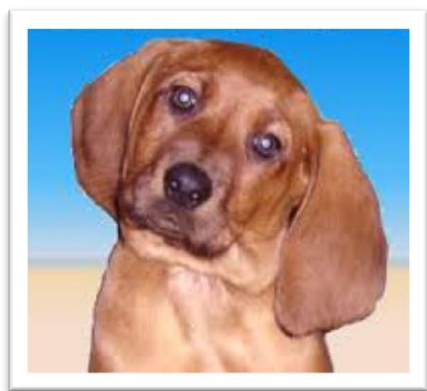
We appreciate Colorado State University's willingness to help sponsor such a program and special thanks goes to the CSU staff members that will be teaching the course. This class will benefit all parties involved and will be a benefit to equine welfare and especially the horses living in Colorado.

The class will be held March 21-23, 2012. Contact Lisa Gibson for availability 303-239-4167. Information will be distributed when another training class is scheduled.

Pet Animal Care and Facilities (PACFA) Program Overview

By Kate Anderson DVM

Colorado was one of the first of a growing number of states across the country to administer a Pet Care Facility inspection program. Since 1994, the Colorado Pet Animal Care Facilities Act (PACFA) has directed the Department of Agriculture to license and inspect pet care facilities throughout the state. This program has been a model on which many other states have based their own pet care programs.



The Pet Care Program is supported through the State Veterinarian's office and consists of one veterinary administrator, four full time inspectors, and one full time administrative assistant. We license and inspect facilities ranging from pet groomers and dog handlers to large scale dog and cat breeders who transfer more than 99 dogs and cats per year. Also inspected are boarding facilities, pet retail shops, pet animal wholesalers, bird breeders, animal shelters and rescue organizations.

All facilities licensed by the Pet Care Program must meet minimum requirements for housing, record keeping, and care and handling of pet animals. This set of standards was developed and written with help from representatives of Colorado's pet care industry. These industry representatives continue to be involved with the program through the advisory committee which monitors and recommends changes in the program on a biannual basis.

The four inspectors travel the state inspecting and educating more than 1900 facilities. Individual facilities are inspected based on a risk factor which is assigned according to the type of business conducted. Low risk facilities may be inspected as little as every two years and high risk facilities every 6 months. We also investigate and inspect upon receiving complaints from the public or other agencies. All our inspectors are experienced animal care technicians with backgrounds in animal health and research.

In many areas of the state PACFA inspectors and BAP agents work closely to assist each other to protect pet animals. We are striving to establish contacts in all our areas of coverage. If you would like to contact a PACFA inspector in your area please let us know.

Contact the state Pet Care Program:

Administrative Assistant:	Lisa Gibson	303-239-4167
Veterinarian:	Dr. Kate Anderson	303-239-4168
Inspectors:	Cindy Thompson	303-886-6996
	Chris Thompson	303-886-6997
	Jennifer Leslie	303-886-8848
	Katie Parker	303-656-8766

<http://www.colorado.gov/ag/animals/pacfa>

The website contains a map of inspector territories, a copy of the rules and regulations, and an application and information on how to apply for a license.

W.H.I.P. The Wild Horse Inmate Program

By Scot Dutcher

I recently had the opportunity to visit the Wild Horse Inmate Program in Canon City to tour the facility and talk to the people that oversee the inmates and horse program. The purpose of the visit was to see the corrals, alleys and chutes in use. The day I was there resident, unbroke mustangs were having hooves trimmed in one chute system and new arrivals were being processed in another chute system.

The corrals alleys and chutes were designed with the help of Dr. Temple Grandin and include all of the classic, trademark features of a well thought out system that works safely and efficiently both in practice and in theory that is backed up with studies and scientific facts. Curved chutes are arranged in a manner to lead horses back in the direction they came from making it much easier to move them single file right into the squeeze chute where the horses were ultimately trimmed, identified, branded, medicated, etc. The sides of the chutes are solid preventing any visual distractions from the outside that may cause an animal to stop going forward. Surfaces inside and out are painted to prevent glints, reflections or shiny spots for the same reason. The walls of the chutes are solid and go



almost all the way to the ground with no more than two inches clearance which prevents horses from slipping and getting their feet caught under the fence. All of the ground surfaces within the chute system are non-slip and gives the horses' added confidence to move with minimal encouragement.

The squeeze chute itself is custom made for horses and includes padding on the inside for comfort and support of the animal. The squeeze chute has a hydraulic motor which allows one person to open and close the entry gate, squeeze (or release) the front and back independently. The operator can also tip the chute 90° away from the workers giving them full access to the horse's feet for trimming.

This facility currently holds about 3,000 horses; in the month after I was there they were up to nearly 4,000. The corral systems are in use every day, it is essential that the facilities work safely and efficiently when dealing with this number of horses. The most striking thing I noticed when observing the inmates work was how quiet it was. No one was raising their voices to urge horses to move, very few, if any of the gates made significant noise, no clanging or crashing of metal on metal.

Most importantly in my mind was how calm and quiet the horses were. Though alert to their surroundings, none of them vocalized or was under undue stress while I was there. The combination of everything mentioned above contributes to the calm, quiet nature of the operation. All of the above features combined with the calmness in which everyone conducted themselves, including the horses, makes for the ideal corral system designed specifically for horses. It is the best horse handling facility I have ever seen. Kudos to the Department of Corrections and the Bureau of Land Management for doing it right!

Park County Resident Found to have “*Mistreated and Neglected the Cattle Under his Care*”



Press Release

LAKEWOOD, Colo. – On December 15, 2011, a Park County judge barred Vernon E. Wagner, of Park County, from owning, managing, controlling, or otherwise possessing cattle in Park County. The ruling stems from a joint investigation by the Colorado Department of Agriculture and Park County Sheriff's Office.

Vernon E. Wagner of Park County owned a number of cattle and was under contract to care for additional livestock. In May 2010, nearly 400 of those cattle were gathered based on the discovery of at least 140 dead cows and many emaciated cattle. Wagner was then deemed an “unfit owner” of those cattle by the courts. Through a temporary restraining order, the rest of Wagner's herd was to remain under his care with specific orders pertaining to their proper care as well as a provision that allowed welfare checks by CDA.

The conclusion of the process occurred on December 15, 2011, when Judge Stephen A. Groome, District Court, Park County, ordered a permanent injunction against Wagner. Groome explained that testimony during the trial “...constitutes very strong and convincing evidence of Wagner's dismal failure to provide adequate nutrition for the cattle under his control.”

Judge Groome also stated, “the court finds and concludes that, unless Wagner is permanently restrained from cattle ranching in Park County, he will continue to neglect and mistreat the cattle under his control in violation of the Animal Protection Act; and that merely ordering Wagner to comply with the Animal Protection Act's provisions would prove meaningless and would result in more Wagner cattle being abused, mistreated, and neglected.”

A court appointed receiver has possession of the cattle and will care for them until they are sold.

Park County Sheriff's Office
Sheriff Fred Wegener

“Sargent Bobbi Priestly, Deputy Bramlett, and Deputy Hardy were pleased with Judge Groome’s decision. I am very proud of this collaborative effort between the Colorado Department of Agriculture and the Park County Sheriff’s office.”

Dr. Keith Roehr, State Veterinarian

“I know Colorado’s cattle industry shares our deep concerns about the improper care and treatment of these cattle; our livestock industry is a vital part of Colorado’s culture and our ranchers are dedicated to protecting their livestock.”

Colorado Livestock Association

Bill Hammerich, CEO

“The Colorado Livestock Association supports the findings, conclusions and orders in this case. Colorado’s livestock industry is dedicated to the care of their animals and we appreciate the effort put forth by both state and local officials who provided the evidence and testimony needed by the court to arrive at their decision.”

Colorado Cattlemen’s Association

Terry Fankhauser, Executive Vice President

“Members of the Colorado Cattlemen’s Association hold in high regard proper animal care and husbandry and have no tolerance for animal abuse. The real testament that this case serves is to illustrate, is that Colorado’s systems to stem, report and punish those who break our animal care laws are fully functional and are not in need of remedy.”

The Colorado Department of Agriculture’s Bureau of Animal Protection (BAP) played an important role in furthering the investigation. Each year, the BAP investigates more than 12,000 reports of animal cruelty and neglect in Colorado. Citizens with concerns for animal care and welfare are encouraged to contact their local law enforcement agency or BAP. For more information or to file a cruelty/neglect report, visit www.colorado.gov/ag/animals and click on “Bureau of Animal Protection.

New 2012 BAP Cards

Just a short note to tell everyone that the 2012 BAP cards are being printed and will be sent out shortly. Thank you all for what you do every day to improve animal welfare in Colorado!

Colorado Hay Market Report for 1/12/12

http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/gl_gr310.txt

To learn more about the Bureau of Animal Protection and access more resources visit <http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/Agriculture-Main/CDAG/1175705256252>